



Commanders Action Line

Call 3400 if you have questions or comments about Thule.

Congratulations First Quarter Award Winners

CGO

1st Lt Shirley Crow

SNCO

MSgt David Lynch

NCO

SSgt Brian Kissinger

Airman

SrA Duane Wilson

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New BX Hours
Starting 4 May 02
Mon-Fri: 1030-1330 &
1600-2000
Sat: 1000-1600 hrs
Sun: 1300-1600 hrs

Another Successful Boxtop, Eh!



This sign greets visitors to Canadian Forces Station Alert, on Ellesmere Island in northern Canada.

By TSgt Angela Yoho 12SWS/DOP

Operation Boxtop was completed 19 April and once again was a huge success. The operation is a bi-annual joint effort between the U.S. and Canada to resupply two of Canada's most Northern stations, Alert and Eureka. These stations are located such that resupply by ship is not feasible. C-130s are utilized because the runways are not long enough to support larger aircraft. The aircraft flew around-the-clock sorties for two weeks to restock the stations with much needed fuel and materials. Despite some weather and mechanical problems with the aircraft, 80 percent of the planned deliveries were made to both stations.

Capt Bob Bell and Craig Robertson were reassigned from Trenton and Cold Lake, Canada to assist their American counterparts in the Thule TRACAB. Each were rated in the tower and assigned to crew with a USAF controller to help augment the operations. During this time, crews worked a rotating six on and two off schedule to support around-the-

clock flights, in which the aircrews flew approximately four-hour sorties. With the exception of a few C-130 emergencies for precautionary engine shutdowns, operations in the tower went very smoothly.

Col Whitehead, 12 SWS/CC, and SMSgt William "Scoot" Kelley, TRACAB Chief Controller, recognized the efforts of Capts Bell and Robertson. On the last day of Boxtop, each was presented with squadron hats and coins along with the coveted air traffic control seven-level badges to show our appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

Not only did the controllers work in the tower, they were actively involved outside of duty hours. The captains helped DOP win the Mukluk hockey tournament on Armed Forces Day. They also helped organize familiarization flights for controllers to Alert. In turn, Capts Bell and Robertson were shown around the base and introduced to the wonderful sights and of Thule. *

Alert

By William I. Block, SSgt, USAF, Retired

I have seen the battlefield and I have seen men fall,
Some were short and some were tall.

I have seen the battlefield, the horrors and the fright,
Some that fell were black and some were white.

I have seen the battlefield where so many have died,
Yet some come home to tell of valor, honor and pride.

I have seen the battlefield and watched as soldiers, sailors
and airmen came home,
Americans shed so many tears from New York City to
Alaska's Nome.

I have seen the battlefield with all the crosses and stars all
neat in rows,
It is a place of death where no hope grows.

I have seen the battlefield where lives were lost, lives so dear,
I have seen the planes crash into the towers-the towers fell-
the battlefield is now here.

Yes I have seen the battlefield, the tears, the sorrow where
terror has started,
But America is strong, united though broken hearted.

Now all have seen the battlefield and when all is done,
An awakened America will fight till the war is won.

We all now see the battlefield where we kneel and pray,

821st Group Standup
20 June 2002



On 4 April 2002, Ms. Elizabeth Block, singer from the Bobby Bell Band, presented a poem entitled "Alert" to Colonel Whitehead. The poem, by her father, SSgt Block, was written to commemorate the tragedy that struck America on 11 September 2001.

The Sound of Music

By A1C Joshua Dodd 12SWS/SF

No matter what kind of music you listen too, whether it is Andrea Bocelli, Garth Brooks, or Marilyn Manson, it can influence our daily lives in one way or another. Music can have a calming influence if you are stressed or it can get you excited if you are feeling depressed.

Music is used in TV and movies to add to the suspense of a car chase or to the emotion of a couple kissing. If there were no music, would we really look at these moments the same way? Some music is instantly recognizable, such as the Star Wars theme or *I'm a Believer* by The Monkees, and no matter who you are you immediately associate

with these songs.

Getting back to the real subject here, music can alter your mood or even your lifestyle. For instance, people dress a certain way or act a certain way to imitate their favorite bands or artists. An example of this is the punk rockers that model their lives after such bands as Sum 41. Music can also stir up certain emotions. Handel's *Messiah* can make you think of one emotion, while *Wisconsin Death Trip* by Static-X can make you think of something else.

So, whether you even listen to music that much, you still hear it every day. If someone else is listening to it or if it is on TV, you * are still in-

Armed Forces Day 2002:

Big Fun on the Ice!

By MSgt Ray Magby 12SWS/SV

The Annual Armed Forces Day celebration at Thule Air Base, Greenland is unlike any celebration you've seen before, unless you've been here in the past. Filled with fun, food and lots of community involvement, Thule celebrates Armed Forces Day earlier than the rest of the U.S. military. "Coordination with the Inuit (the indigenous people of Greenland) people in the neighboring communities is vital to a successful event," said Commander Holmer Soegaard, the Danish Liaison Officer assigned to Thule. Armed Forces Day at Thule is synonymous with sharing the day with families in the local area. Base leadership, in coordination with Commander Soegaard, schedule the events for the time that the Greenlandic children are on school break.



"This is a tremendous event that brings Team Thule together with our surrounding neighbors for fun, food and culture sharing," said Colonel Craig Whitehead, 12th Space Warning Squadron Commander. "A lot of

effort went into making Armed Forces Day successful... everyone had a great time."

To show you how different Thule's celebration is from other locations, folks in the local community arrive at Thule by dog sleds. Yes, I mean real dog sleds—you know the ones you only see in National Geographic Magazine or on the Discovery Channel... now that is different! Some of the Inuits traveled as long as three days to arrive at Thule and most of this travel was on the ice cap, said Commander Soegaard. The ice cap covers about 1.8 million square kilometers and is about 8 km thick in the center. Additionally, all the games were held on the frozen bay at Thule.

Approximately 12 sleds carrying more than 50 families from the villages of Siorapaluk, Qaanaaq, Moriusaq and Savissivik traveled in sub-zero temperatures to participate in the events. The travel to Thule wasn't an easy trip, as the area went into snowstorm conditions. While personnel at Thule were confined to the dorms, some of the inbound Greenlandics were hunkered down in tents on the ice cap, braving gusting winds of 50 knots or more. Once the Greenlandics arrived and the snowstorm passed, the fun began, and what a day it was.

Several events were planned for the day to include a dog sled race, but we will get to that later. The day began with a few friendly attempts at tug-of-war. Mixed teams of military and civilians tried several times to pull the other team across the threshold. Being on the ice made traditional tug-of-war somewhat easy.



Next, the children, some of them dressed in the local native clothing, enjoyed a game of "potato" sack racing. This was the highlight of the day for the kids because they were all given snacks provided by the local base exchange. No matter what part of the world kids hail, candy, cookies and snacks are always a treat!

The most entertaining event of the day was mukluk hockey. Several units on base, including the Greenland Contractors, rallied for bragging rights of winning the event. Mukluk hockey is best described as ice hockey with brooms instead of hockey sticks; skates aren't worn either, players wear mukluks...this makes it more interesting. "Brooms aren't just for sweeping at Thule," said Master Sergeant Torrye Kirvin, Air Traffic Controller at Thule. Of course the Air Traffic Controllers won the mukluk hockey tournament.

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But that win didn't come without some serious help from two of their Canadian counterparts TDY to Thule.

The fun and games ended with the always-popular dog sled ride/race. Thule residents signed up for a lottery drawing for a chance at taking this once-in-a-lifetime ride. Twelve lucky souls were whisked away on the frozen bay on a 75-minute, 9-mile ride that took them well out of view of the remaining spectators. The long and very cold ride took participants past Mt Dundas and near several large icebergs--again, sites usually seen only in magazines or on television. One lucky rider got a chance to steer the dog sled for more than half the trip. "It was an experience of a life time," said Karen Sorensen, a Services employee for Greenland Contractors. She said, she communicated with the Greenlandic sled owner through everyday hand signals, pointing in which direction to turn, giving her the thumbs up signal when everything was okay, and yelling "yahoo" just to past the

time. Karen advises anyone who has a chance of riding a dog sled to go for it. While Thule residents went along for the joy of the ride, the sled owners had an added reason to complete the ride. Thanks to funds donated by Operation JULEMAND (Thule AB's fund raising effort in support of children in the local communities), prizes were given away for the top three winners. The winner of the race was given a rifle that will surely be used for hunting. Second and third place winners were given a set of binoculars, also a key tool for hunting.

Throughout the entire day, Greenland Air offered helicopter rides to get a panoramic view of some of the wonderful sites in the Thule Defense Area. The Bell 212 chopper carried nine passengers at a time on a 15-minute ride, sometimes landing on Mt. Dundas for a quick stop and photo opportunity.

The day concluded with a delicious dinner at the fitness center. Volunteers from Thule's Top 4 organization, squadron leadership and other base residents served a variety of food and beverages to our Greenlandic neighbors and other base diners. Much thanks was given to the staff of the Dundas Dining Facility for preparing such a scrumptious meal.

The Inuits came from many miles and days of travel to offer the residents of Thule just a small glimpse of life in the artic. As in previous years, we've opened up our hearts to them and embraced their culture. The final and unscheduled event of the day was a traditional Greenlandic dance per-



formed by one of the natives. Complete with a handmade musical instrument and in the native language, you could feel ❄️ and hear the sincerity in the

Bowling Center

May's Special Events

Sat May 18 – Cosmic Bowling @ 1600 hrs.

Sun May 12 & 26 – King of the Hill @ 1400 hrs.

Mon: Closed

Tues: 1915-2215 Open Bowling

Wed: 1830-2215 Open Bowling (Non Smoking Day)

Thurs: 1915-2215 Open Bowling

Fri: 1530-2215 Red Pin Bowling

Sat: 1030-2115 Half Price Bowling (Non Smoking Day/ Look for flyers)

Sun: 1030-2115 Open Bowling (look for flyers)

12SWS Coin for First Class Service

By Capt Sarah Geiger 12SWS/CCE

On behalf of the 21st Logistics Group Commander, Colonel Whitehead presented LG coins to Thule AB firefighters for their support of 21st Contracting Squadron personnel during their recent visit to Thule AB.

Specifically, Mr. Ole Hansen, Mr. John Thomson, Mr. Jesper Nielsen, Mr. Kasim Virk, Mr. Henrik Wegeberg, Mr. Bo Hansen and Lt Col Len Bane were



recognized for the extra care they provided to help the Administrative Contracting Officer, Mrs. Kathleen O'Connell, fulfill her duties. Colonel Strait, 21 LG/CC remarked, "The visit from arrival to departure was first class and I thank you and your folks for the great care and support." *

Operation Julemand : Where Does the Money Go?

By SSgt Amber Foster 12SWS/CCA

On 9 Apr 02, Chaplain Darrell Clark and Commander Holmer Soegaard, members of Operation JULEMAND's executive steering committee, presented a check for \$11,000 to the children of Qaanaaq, Greenland. Accepting the check was Ms. Birthe Jensen, Chairman of Qaanaaq's Save the Children Foundation, and Mr. Ole Ahrnkiel, Chief Executive of the Qaanaaq Municipality. All of the monies will go toward a \$120,000 project to renovate a house that will be used as a youth center. Col Craig Whitehead, 12th Space Warning Squadron Commander, expressed his appreciation to Team Thule and stated, "Operation JULEMAND was a bonding of community that extended beyond the Thule Defense Area."

Operation JULEMAND is Thule AB's year-round commu-

nity service project. The purpose of Operation JULEMAND is to purchase Christmas gifts for Greenlandic children in the local area and support children and youth charities. The chapel staff and the Danish Liaison Office take the lead in planning this event each year. Many activities in support of Operation JULEMAND took place throughout the year. Harris contractors sponsored a dartboard tournament, 12 SWS logistics personnel sponsored a chili cook off and the Danish Liaison Office raffled a Scandinavian Airline ticket. The Thule City Council and the base Chapel provided monetary donations. Additionally, the following events led up to the Operation JULEMAND finale: bowling tournament; Christmas card, cookie and soda sale; radio show; clothing drive and bagging at the BX.

Sat, 17 Nov was the biggest day for Operation JULEMAND. Thule AB turned the fit-

ness center into a mini carnival. Concession booths lined the fitness center and several activities happened simultaneously. The entire day's events were broadcasted live over one of the on-base TV channels. Events such as the Jail and Bail were a great success; security forces personnel had lots of practice locking people up. The fitness center was full of people eating, shopping and playing games. The pie-in-the-face event was one of the biggest moneymakers that day. The day's festivities concluded with an auction. Every item in the auction was donated by a member of Thule AB. According to the Danish Liaison Officer, Commander Holmer Soegaard, "This was the most productive and successful Operation JULEMAND Team Thule has ever put together." The men and women of Team Thule really put their hearts and minds together to make Operation JULEMAND a huge success. *

THREE OF THULE'S BRIGHTEST GET PROMOTED



SSgt Stephen Diegidio and Col Craig Whitehead tack on Arm Eric Forrester's first stripe at the APO.



Col Craig Whitehead and Capt Sarah Geiger ensure that SSgt Amber Foster's SSgt stripes are staying put for a while.



Newly inducted SSgt Stacy LeBlanc braces for the "light taps" of Col Craig Whitehead and MSgt Douglas Nagy.

3589 Miles



From Athens

By 1st Lt Elizabeth Ferrill 12SWS/MAO

Stepping off the C-130 at 82°29'56.7" N latitude, the team was first struck by the coolness of the air (-35°F) but then by the intense beauty and serenity of the farthest north inhabited military base in the world. Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Alert is located on the northern tip of Ellesmere Island, Canada. But you might ask why had our intrepid group of weary warriors traveled over 400 miles from their home base in Thule AB, Greenland? A secret mission? Humanitarian aid for a disaster? In fact, their goal was much more humble in nature: win the Boxtop Olympics and triumphantly bring home the trophy. But let's go back to the beginning of the story...

Twice a year, the Canadian military and its herd of C-130s descend on Thule AB to resupply CFS Alert under the code name Operation Boxtop. For three weeks, the Canadians transport fuel and long-shelf provisions to keep Alert running for the following six months. At the close of the operation, they sponsor an MWR event designed to pit Canadians against Americans, Danes and Greenlandics in a test of will and strength known as the Boxtop Olympics.

Boxtop Olympians are chosen for their skill, agility and ability to have ones name pulled out of a hat at random. Although there were no practices, many members engaged early and frequently in the "talking of the trash." Early Saturday afternoon, the Canadians arrive at Thule AB and the event begins with an opening ceremony. Following the ceremony, Team Thule challenged Team Alert to a game of indoor soccer. After a hard fought battle, Thule won the game, thereby scoring a single "Olympic" overall point for their team. Mr. Torben Hede, Greenland Contractor Purchasing

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Agent, said, "They almost beat us, which is pretty good because soccer is the most popular sport in Denmark, much like American baseball."

Next, the teams divided to compete in scotch doubles bowling, par-3 golf simulator and single elimination pool. Due to the solid rolls of 12 SWS First Sergeant, MSgt Craig Lincoln; TSgt Mike Garcia, Transportation Quality Assurance Evaluator; Jens Nielsen, Greenland Contractor Plumber; Claus Bentsen, Greenland Contractor Mechanic, Team Thule won the bowling competition. Reflecting on the game, TSgt Garcia said, "It wasn't a shellacking, but we did take them by about 50 points." Likewise, Team Thule also was victorious in part because of the accurate cue work

of TSgt Howard Hollister, Postmaster, and Ms. Grethe Pedersen, Greenland Contractor Painter. However, due to the unusual pool rules of Boxtop Olympics, "it was impossible to know what the outcome would be at the end of the game," said SSgt Ben Trevino, NCOIC of the Base Chapel, "because nobody knew if they were shooting at a teammate's ball or not."

Despite this run of good luck, Team Alert, lead by Master Warrant Officer Gerry Thibault, Station Administration Officer, showed their superior putting skills in the par-3 Golf Simulator competition. So as the teams gathered their belongings to head to Alert, Team Thule was ahead 3 to 1.

After a long night of travel, Team Thule lay nestled, all snug in their sleeping bags, when to their surprise, a Scottish bagpiper, Morger "Sgt Smokey" Greer, the Station Fire Chief arrived to be their personal alarm clock. "Since we had all gone to bed early and got a good night's sleep, it was nice to have such a spirited wake-up," said MSgt Lincoln.

Afterwards, the consensus of Team Thule was that this event was meant to shake their resolve, while some dissenters thought that maybe Team Alert was just trying to be nice. Following a tasty breakfast at the Igloo Restaurant, Alert's premier and only dining facility, the teams once again gathered on the field of battle, otherwise

This is the scene that greeted Team Thule when they first left the plane at CFS Alert.

known as the gymnasium, to play a little floor hockey. The game was tough and in the end, the score, Alert 14, Thule 5, clearly illustrated why hockey is Canada's national pastime.

Once again, Team Alert offered Team Thule a scrumptious lunch (probably meant to fatten them up and therefore slow them down) before the teams engaged in game of novelty bowling. Bowling at Alert uses only five pins and a ball that is much smaller than a standard bowling ball. In addition, the teams were required to bowl different frames in the prone position, from behind, with their eyes closed and finally with one hand on the top of their head. All of these tests of skill and luck showed that once again, Team Thule prevailed. Despite a strong showing from Master Corporal Mike Thibodeau, CFS Alert Rations Clerk, the overall

Major John Pratt defends his goal from the skillful play of Team Alert's Katrina Siks. Ms. Siks was working at Alert conducting environmental studies.



MCPL Thibodeau holds up the rules to "Novelty Bowling." Little did the players know that they would be bowling from such unusual positions.

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SSgt Benjamin Trevino, 12SWS/HC rolls his second ball laying on his stomach. Some players were surprised by their bowling prowess from such a "compromising" position.

a little trouble with the Canadian version. In Canada, the pool balls are smaller and the banks are rounded rather than an-

consistent performance of Team Thule won the event in the end.

So after a day and half of hard play, the teams gathered for the final two events: volleyball and 8-ball pool. While the rules for volleyball were fairly standard, the roof of the gymnasium (which was "out") played a significant role in the outcome. Team Alert won the first game strongly, but Team Thule hit their stride and delivered a much closer second game. At the close of the volleyball event, Team Thule was one event ahead of Team Alert in the overall standings.

It all came down to the 8-ball pool. While some members of Team Thule were quite good at pool back on the base, they had

gled. Perhaps these facts contributed to Team Alert's victory in this event. Each of six pairs played three rounds and each round contributed one point to the team's total score. But when the last ball rolled into a pocket, Team Alert had won their hometown version of this classic 11-7.

Shortly before the Closing Ceremony, the organizers, Ms. Mette Linnemann, Greenland Contractor Recreation Center Director, and Sgt. Rob Lamothe, Construction Electrical Engineer, had to determine who would win the coveted trophy. After eight events, the teams were tied with four wins apiece. The captains conferred and decided that Team Alert should win because of their superior hospitality and because Team Thule really wanted a ride home. So at the Closing Ceremony,

Greenland Contractor, Jens P. Nielsen, says good by to CFS Alert. The atmosphere on the ride home was much quieter than on the way up.

the trophy was awarded to Team Alert, however, the plaque did indicate that the actual score was tie. Since, Team Thule's southern bound C-130 was already waiting on the runway, Major John Pratt, Detachment 3 Commander, 22nd Space Operations Squadron, quickly thanked the Canadians, pointing out that this event "was a great demonstration of teamwork between our two countries and an exhibit of esprit de corps."

"I would like to say that, it was a great pleasure to have



MSgt Craig Lincoln, 12 SWS/CCF, enjoys a refreshing drink of water after the indoor soccer game.

participated with such a great group of people from Thule," said MCPL Thibodeau, "All of us were in great spirits and wanted to have fun. Of course everyone wants to win, but when you're this far up north, it's hard to find good judges and officials."

"We ended up tied, but we agreed that it wasn't even about the trophy," concluded Amn Eric Forrester, Postal * Specialist, "It was about the camaraderie between the two countries and the fact that we all can



Career Assistance Advisor's

Chatter Box

By MSgt Laura Velasquez 21SW/CAA

CAREER STATUS BONUS INSTALLMENT OPTIONS

The FY 2002 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) included a provision that would allow a member who chooses to accept the Career Status Bonus (CSB), to receive the bonus in installments, rather than one lump sum. Section 620 on the NDAA said, "A member electing to receive the bonus under this section will elect one of the following payment options:

1. A single lump sum of \$30,000.
2. Two installments of \$15,000

- each.
3. Three installments of \$10,000 each.
4. Four installments of \$7,5000 each.
5. Five installments of \$6,000 each."

Section 620 explains that this bonus should, from now on, be offered to those that select the CSB. Those who took the CSB offer prior to Dec 28,2001 but have not received it, are entitled to the installment plan.

Written notification or guidance from the Air Force is pending. A method for making this happen is still being staffed by the services. Those of you who plan to take the CSB option need to make sure you ask the right questions so as not to be at a disadvantage. This option increases "sheltered investment" possibilities; therefore it is important to get the word out.

First Term Airman Center Graduation



Front Row (L to R): MSgt Craig Lincoln, A1C Joshua Arkin,
A1C James Kipp, SrA Amber Foster

Back Row (L to R): TSgt John Martella, TSgt Patrick Schultz, MSgt Gregory Koziara,
MSgt David Craig, MSgt Torrye Kirvin, Col Craig Whitehead



THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN OPEN WINDOW

The second open season to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is scheduled for 15 and will go through 31 Jul 02. Defense officials say the first open season was a huge success. Every member need to decide for him or herself whether this plan or any other investment option is right for them. This is a portable savings program that even if you do not stay in the military for a career, still belongs to you.

The plan works like this: Service members can contribute from 1 to 7 percent of basic pay and from 1 to 100 percent of any special, incentive or bonus pays (including Hardship Duty Pay).

TSP has five funds with different investment goals and varying rates of return. Service members can place their money in any or all funds they desire. There is an \$11,000 limit for contributions for this year.

You can save and invest money that is tax-deferred. Contributions and earnings are not reported until they are withdrawn from the plan. All members should have received a pamphlet titled "Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for the Uniformed Services. If you did not or have misplaced it, you can go to www.tsp.gov. *

Financial Management Customer Survey Coming

By TSgt Tim Dougherty
Air Force Print News

Air Force financial management officials asked experts from the University of Michigan Business School to conduct a customer satisfaction survey that will give finance officials an idea of how they are doing in supporting the warfighter.

The survey will begin in the next few days.

The school will use their American Customer Satisfaction Index, originally developed in 1994 as an independent and uniform means to measure customer satisfaction and recently used by several other government agencies.

"By contracting with a first-class institution like the University of Michigan, we are demonstrating our commitment to our warfighting customers," said Col. Martha Beatty, director of the Air Force Accounting and Finance Office in Denver. "I'm excited that virtually all of the agencies that use the recommendations from the ACSI experience an increase in customer satisfaction."

"Our customers -- warfighters -- should expect the best possible financial services for their commitment and dedication in defending our nation," said Beatty. "Financial services, such as timely and accurate pay and travel entitlements, is perhaps the number one quality-of-life issue."

The survey will focus on four broad categories of questions: military pay services, travel pay services, automated services, and base-level customer service.

The results will factor into a numerical score, called the ACSI index.

Beatty said she is particularly interested in feedback regarding automation services.

"We need to strike a balance between providing hands-on customer service our clients expect and providing automated tools such as the employee/member self-service Web site that will soon allow the member to change allotments and other pay data," Beatty said. "Your ability to file your taxes electronically this month can be traced to the Internal Revenue Service's participation in the ACSI, so positive things can happen."

The study might show overall customer service is strong, but improvements are needed in specific processes, said David Van Amburg, ACSI managing director. The results will be an important tool as the Air Force finance community looks to the

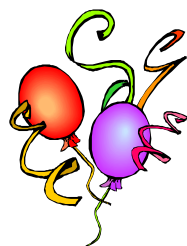
future.

"At the end of the day this data will allow Air Force financial services to do strategic planning for allocating resources that can improve overall satisfaction with their services by targeting identified areas for improvement," Van Amburg said.

Surveying is done via telephone interviewing and each interview is expected to take eight to 10 minutes. The people selected for the survey are from a randomly generated list of active-duty people.

Although this first survey will target the active-duty population, finance officials plan to survey other customers, such as reservists, commanders, resource advisers and commercial vendors.

Officials said it will take several weeks to conduct the survey and provide the ACSI index score and analysis. *



Happy Birthday



SrA Thomas Kaiser
SrA Brian Hilliard
SrA Carl Pratt
TSgt Kenneth Cook
A1C Joshua Arkin
SrA Glenn Wooten, II
AB Samantha Barrett
Capt Michael Collier
TSgt James Kurkowski

SF	1 May
SF	5 May
SF	5 May
CCX	8 May
SF	12 May
DO	14 May
APO	25 May
DET 3	26 May
SF	28 May

Talkin' Trash

By Environmental Engineering

Pavements & Grounds – a work place with many tasks. Amongst others they collect and handle cans, glass, white office paper and cardboard from the recycling containers, which are placed around the base area. The collection of recyclable material has been going on for almost two years now and the amount of collected material has exceeded what we expected. This is really good! Cans and cardboard are the two materials we have collected most of.

In the summer 2001 the following amounts were shipped:

64	pallets cans
272	pallets cardboard
24	boxes of paper
30	pallets glass,

This comes to a total of 116 tons of collected material.

We are very pleased to see that instead of being buried at the dump a lot of material is being recycled since the program started. And we are working on including more items in the program, e.g. used tires and plastic, etc. in order to reduce the amount we bury in nature. For several years we have been recycling toner cassettes (which are refilled), car



batteries, copper wires, CDs and waste oil, which we burn at the K-Plant and thereby it contributes to the energy supply. Furthermore we have initiated a collection and crushing of fluorescent light tubes. We are currently looking for a buyer of the crushed tubes. Demolished tanks from the tank farm and steel and aluminum pipes from the other demolition projects are also shipped for recycling, so TAB is overall doing a good job in recycling.

In P&G the employees make sure that our cans, glass, paper and cardboard – which we naturally put in the correct recycling containers – end up in the right places. In spite of snow, ice and cold P&G faithfully come to empty the recycling igloos. When emptying the igloos the crane lifts the containers up above the truck. A wire opens the bottom of the container in either the can half or the glass half of the igloo to keep the two materials separated while emptying. The material is then brought to bldg. #569 to be unloaded. The procedure is the same for paper and cardboard. If a recycling container is full you can call P&G and they will empty it as soon as possible.

So what happens after the material is collected? Cans and cardboard is pressed into bales, the glass is crushed and collected in drums and the paper is put in large boxes. The recycled materials are sent to a recycling center in Virginia through DRMO. The center is DRMO's collaborator in the US. TAB benefits from the collection of



material as we get part of the payment DRMO receives for the material. For the material we shipped in 2001 we received approximately \$3000, which will be used for purchase of new equipment and for promotional items to support the recycling program.

We can do better!
When P&G empty the recycling igloos they often find waste, which definitely do not belong there such as household waste including pizza boxes and tins but also other types of trash unfortunately ends up in the recycling dumpsters. A good example is the plastic bags likely used for transporting the recyclable materials to the recycling dumpsters. In order to use e.g. the cans for recycling, the trash has to be removed, which is done by hand. In some cases the contents of the recycling containers are taken straight to the dumpsite because the recyclable materials are so mixed with other trash that it is impossible to sort. And that is just too bad.



So be careful to sort the waste properly and put the household waste and the trash including the plastic bags in a regular dumpster – it is usually right beside the recycling container.

Remember: We all play an important part in making the recycling program a success. If you have any questions to the recycling program please call Environmental Engineering at ext. 2224.

Chaplain's Corner

Bat t l i n g t h e R o u t i n e

By Ch, Capt Don Bretz 12SWS/HC

Although we support the war against terrorism, we fight another enemy here at Thule. It is an enemy that attacks our spiritual resources and drains us of vitality – that enemy is: Routine!

We respond to this threat both on and off duty. At work, we practice scenarios focusing on dramatic events that could happen. Yet the sinking reality for most of us, is that (fortunately) very little dramatic actually does happen. After work, we choose from a range of activities that, at least on the surface offer us some relief. But, if we're honest – some of the choices serve merely as diversions – something to take up time – or something that helps us forget our situation.

One of the most effective weapons that I have seen in this

battle against the routine – are changes of attitude.

What if the routine became a means of encountering God?

Nicholas Herman (1605-91) had been a soldier and he later entered a monastery where he was given the name Brother Lawrence and placed in charge of the kitchen. There he devoted his life to practicing the presence of God. His kitchen became his sanctuary and he tried to offer each act, no matter how mundane or routine, as an act of devotion. For Brother Lawrence, his work became his prayer – his offering to God.

What if, in the midst of doing the routine, we focused on serving others?

The boredom that accompanies the routine – is often rooted in selfishness. One of the important spiritual movements for maturity is found in our Core Value of "Service before self." Caring for others gets you out of the mindset of focusing only on yourself. Although what you do may not change at all, how you do it might – and that can make

all the difference. Rather than focusing on the routine – we can focus on relationships.

What if we took a risk and were creative?

Sometimes we stay in a routine, not because we have to – but because change involves taking risks. Taking a risk is an act of faith – the outcome is uncertain – but sometimes it is worth a try. Creativity or the desire to improve one's environment can spark new life into one's own life or the life of a section. Again, we may not be able to change what we do – but we might be able to change the environment that we operate it in.

Seeking God, serving others and taking risks are important weapons in our battle against the routine. It is also important to remember that we are part of a team – we need not fight this battle alone. Sometimes we might have to ask for help. Sometimes we might be in a position to help others. The muddy season may soon be upon us – but remember, you do not have to stay stuck in a rut! *



ARCTIC SPOTLIGHT



SrA Ulysses Dickens

What is your Job title?

Space Console Operator

How long have you been in the service?

7 years

Where is your last base, and where is your next base?

Buckley Air Force Base

What do you like about your job?

The experience of learning something new

What are some of your hobbies and interest?

Video games, softball, baseball, working out, and tattoos

What is your favorite book?

Green Eggs and Ham

What is your favorite movie?

Teletubies



TSgt Holmes bundles up again the chilly arctic weather. Exposed skin can be deadly in this environment.

over the other teams. Surely, they thought, the Thule personnel can advise us on dealing with the weather. Little did they know that 2022 is the most important survival technique we learn.

MSgt Wood informed the group of the schedule and what to expect over the next few days. As he talked, Channel 26 was prominently displayed on the large screen television. It showed Thule Main Base at -4 Fahrenheit, and Shelter 6, close to the training site, at -14 with winds of 12 knots per hour. The briefing was quick, and we were all shuttled to Shelter 6 by 0830.

The Will To Survive

By TSgt David Holmes 12SWS/FM

Years ago, I read Jack London's *Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*. The books engrossed me. The narrative, any narrative for that matter, can never replace experience. Reading about London's characters sleeping in open plains with the temperature dropping to -40 or -50 was something I could appreciate, but never quite understand. Today, I can read those books and know - first hand - just what the biting cold feels like. I survived "Arctic Barren Land Survival School" ... well, kind of.

"Kool School" is the unofficial name for the course put on by the 109th Air National Guard unit from New York. It's designed for C-130 crewmembers that fly often to the Arctic and to Antarctica with the Air Force's only planes equipped to land on snow or ice. The purpose of the exercise was to "foster the will to survive" in the event of an emergency or "unplanned camping

trip", as MSgt Neil Wood of the 109th's Life Support section calls it.

The course took place from Wednesday, April 3rd and went through to that Friday. It included 25 Guard members, four volunteers from Thule and a dozen or so instructors and support personnel. I was lucky enough to have won the lottery to participate as a volunteer, along with MSgt Tom Allen, SSgt Hilda Haftmann and SSgt Ben Trevino.

The day began with a meeting of all participating personnel. It was the last feeling of warmth for most people for the next three days. The students were separated into three elements. MSgt Allen, the only Thule member to go the full length, went to Element One. The other three Thule volunteers were placed in Element Two, under Maj Cheryl "Sam" Olszowy, a navigator from the Arkansas ANG. Members from our Element thought they had an edge

Sites were chosen for the three elements according to snowdrift sizes, depth of snow and possible protection from the wind. Our team was immediately confronted with where to build the "snow house" and, most important to some, where to build the Arctic toilet. With ice saws in hand, groups were dispersed to melt snow for drinking water, cut bricks from the ice and dig holes as protection against the long Arctic nights. Our main task was to build a snow house where we would all sleep that first evening. Our new dwelling consisted of a three foot, round wall with a ten-foot diameter and a parachute for a roof. Surprisingly, it took little time to build. The toilet took longer to dig out and, of course; the plumbing technology was a bit ancient.

By 1300, we finished the construction and it was time for the real task - survival and boredom. Survival normally in-

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SSgt Hilda Haftmann, 12SWS/APO, pauses while she is attempting to de-ice her arctic mittens.

some, that being SSgt Haftmann, the snoring few, that being me, kept her awake the entire night. She passed the time entertaining herself by comparing the sounds of slumber to those of animals.

cludes food. We dined on MRE's. Frozen solid, everything in them had to be boiled on camping stoves – crackers, jelly, and the main course – all of it. Also frozen were our hands. Gloves work fine for short jaunts from place to place, but after hours in the cold, it's a challenge to keep them from stinging. Needless to say, eating was difficult.

Boredom was the hardest thing to deal with. There was nothing to do, and remaining immobile made you colder still. Lt Col. Wade Lillegard became known as the "Trotter." With long icicles formed on his mustache and eyebrows, he trotted around the camp to keep himself warm. SSgt Haftmann braved the cold by doing Jane Fonda aerobics. Others, myself included, continued cutting ice blocks simply for the pure enjoyment of it.

As the day wore on, the cold became colder. After a second meal of nourishing MRE's – I had the Tortellini and Tomato Sauce Popsicle – Element Two went to bed early. One of the most difficult moments of my life was stripping down to my thermals and jumping into the sleeping bag. Getting undressed is normally a simple task. However, layers of clothing, exposed skin and freezing hands made it a difficult task. Under the covers, I started to feel toasty, and I fell into a deep slumber. Unfortunately for

When we went to bed at 2100, the skies were clear, blue and the temperature was a comfortable – 20. Every four hours, the camp medic, MSgt Craig Talarico, visited each element and was required to make verbal confirmation that each person was, well, alive. During the 0200 medical check, the temperature dropped to – 29 and the winds were blowing at almost 60 knots per hour according to MSgt Wood. The cold was unbearable.

The night was long, longer still from the confines of a sleeping bag. Using the bathroom was a decision that had to be weighed as if your life depended on it – and it did. After 8 hours in a sleeping bag, you didn't want to leave its warmth for the biting cold. We arose at 0600 by a second medical check. We were told to get up, and out of the bags. The weather had calmed down greatly; yet, I got a sudden chill and lay in the bag shivering uncontrollably with chattering teeth. I could not get control of my body. Mild to medium hypothermia had set in, but that was expected, I was told. Shivering is the body's way of making itself warm. SSgt Haftmann had had enough and decided to find a storm shelters, to which I escorted her. Her goal was just to warm up for a minute. Being volunteers, MSgt Wood allowed us some slack, which we used sparingly.

I brought SSgt Haftmann to the shelter so she could catch a ride back to the base. I was determined to go back out with the rest of the element – I was resolute. MSgt Wood drove us to Shelter 5, a bit away from the site. We were given warm Tang and some homemade trail mix – a taste I would never forget and long for to this day. I learned one important lesson that morning, that after unbearable hardship, relief changes the mind. Resolve turns to mush. MSgt Wood reminded me that I didn't need the school; that I didn't have to go back. I didn't budge for a while, but he made an offer I couldn't refuse. They were short of support staff, they needed somebody to stay in the hut, keep it warm, run errands and do other "important" things



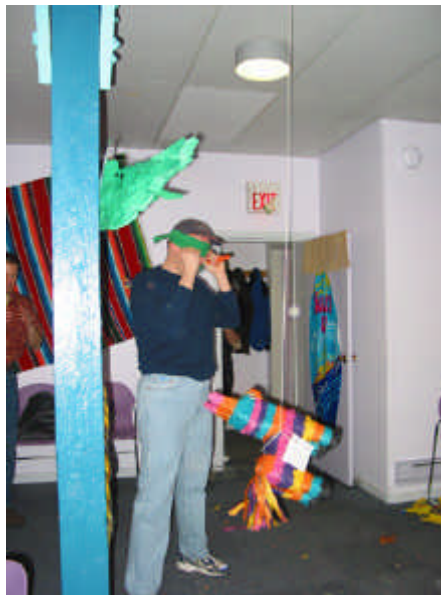
for them. Meanwhile my toes stopped aching, my fingers were finally warm after 24 hours and I didn't have ice formed on my facial hair. I offered the job as the "Hut Coordinator." (The real "duty title" cannot be printed in this paper. So, you must use your imagination.) I happily agreed, and I learned more during that second day than I ever would have outside, building snow caves. I wouldn't change a thing.

Looking back, I didn't fail. I met the training objective – to "foster the will to survive." That will was fostered, and I survived – I sought warmth and found it. *

Fiesta!

On 28 April 02, Team Thule gathered to say good-bye to three of its own: Lt Col Scott Shepherd, TSgt Stephanie McKenzie and Capt Randal Shackelford. Capt Kevin Carlson cooked up a scrumptious feast of Mexican cuisine and he spent over three months planning the party.

Volunteers transformed the Pavilion by the Bay into a South of the Border cantina. After enjoying tacos and fajitas, the three honorees received gifts and well wishes from their respective offices and guests watched a slide show that remembered the year that had gone by. *



Muddy Mayhem

By TSgt John Martella 12SWS/SE

Greetings Team Thule, Safety Dude here to remind all of you just how treacherous the road conditions can get as we transition from winter to spring. As you may have noticed, the muddy seasons is just about upon us, and believe me, it does get muddy!

The road conditions will only get worse from here. There will be everything from sporadic ice patches, to washboards, to ruts and potholes. These conditions can change without warning, and could lead to disaster.

As of 1 May, the speed limit to BMEWS increases to 35 MPH, and reduced to 25 MPH in the dangerous curves. As with any speed limit, it is just that, **THE LIMIT**. The road conditions here often dictate slower speeds so adjust accordingly.

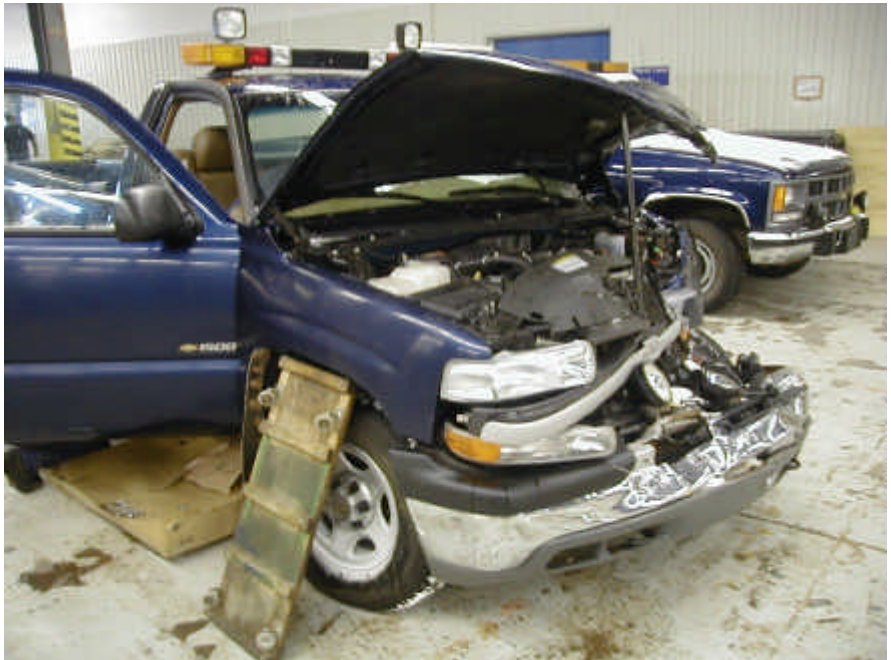
I would ask that each of you drive with caution, continue to wear your seatbelts, and ensure your vehicle is kept in good working condition.

Keep up the good work, and let's always look out for one another out there!

Disclaimer

Opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors to this paper and are not to be considered an official expression by the 12th Space Warning Squadron, Department of the Air Force, Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, or the Department of Defense.

It was Truck vs. Snowplow and the Snow Plow wins again! The driver of this truck was following too closely to a snow plow when the accident occurred.



Where's TSgt Garcia?



It's time to play another round of "Where's TSgt Mike Garcia?" Can you spot our favorite logistics NCO?

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Deadline for submissions for next issue is 25 May 2002.